

# The Crisis at Hand?

Gen. Maurice was quoted last night as saying that "the crisis has arrived," and Sir Douglas Haig has issued a stirring appeal to his armies, in which the gravity of the situation is painted in colors by no means calculated to allow allied thought to stabilize on the idea that the German has failed of his great objective.

Hindenburg plans to "finish off" the British first and then to attend to France. As we stated yesterday, he aims at the destruction of the British forces in the field, or, if that plan seems too grandiose, at least the capture of the Channel ports. It is unthinkable that he will succeed in the latter any more than in the former. The fall of Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne would be a disaster of the first magnitude. It is difficult to see how British military co-operation in the war could be sustained without them. It is little wonder that Haig has called upon his men not to allow Messines Ridge—which is the key to the British position in Flanders—to fall into the Teutonic lap. Yet it is certain that any further penetration of the British lines on the Arras-Cambrai-Ypres front will mean that Messines will have to be given up.

The second phase of the British offensive has opened. Before Amiens the German drive has stopped; the fighting no longer is in the open, and Hindenburg has lost entirely the impetus of his great initial success. Before La Bassée and Ypres the second chapter is just starting. The meaning of this strategy is clear. Hindenburg failed to capture the connecting link between the French and British armies between St. Quentin and La Fere. Therefore he is attempting a rupture on a still greater scale; by striking the British a mighty blow now, he hopes to win a success which will enable him to strike the French later with the British unable to throw support and aid to his ally. As a dispatch to the New York Times puts it:

"As the offensive proceeds, the German objectives become clearer. From the enemy viewpoint the most desirable possible development would be a menace to Calais that would absorb British attention simultaneously with a drive toward Paris that would similarly alarm the French and divert them from their common objects. The forces which work toward such ends are both powerful and subtle. So potent were they that only after the retreat of the British Fifth Army was it possible to bring the French and British together under a single leadership."

Perhaps in the future the glory which now attends Gen. Carey's improvised army, which saved the day after the collapse of the Fifth Army, will be divided by the heroic defenders of Givenchy, by the brave Portuguese in the heart of the British line in the sector north of Arras. If Givenchy had not held, the entire positions on the heights of Vimy and of Notre Dame de Lorette might have been jeopardized. For ten days and more the Germans have been pounding away at Arras and its correlated positions, but the line has been adamant. Had Hindenburg been able to push this section of the British front back as he has further to the south—and as he now is desperately attempting to do in Flanders—there is no telling what disaster might not now be a stern reality facing the Western nations.

But grave and frank as is the warning of Field Marshal Haig, we do not read any premonition of reverses into it. Rather is it a call upon his armies to remember that the necessity is at hand for a supreme display of the British fighting spirit, which has never failed yet in history, and is not going to fail now.

# The Teuton Madness.

Some weeks ago, there came a cable story to the effect that the Germans had captured several Americans and left their mutilated bodies in front of the trenches held by our boys.

Now comes a story told in a letter by Adjutant R. C. Starbuck, of the Salvation Army, who says that a wounded sergeant in a hospital told him that he saw the Germans capture three American soldiers and cut their throats. Such atrocities, adds Mr. Starbuck, are perpetrated by brutes especially selected to intimidate by frightfulness.

It is of high importance that the truth or falsity of such reports be established beyond doubt. It is even worth while that the authorities at Washington take particular pains to determine their truth or falsity. The continuance of such stories is loaded with horrible possibilities, there are so many exposed German throats in this country.

Moreover, if cutting the throats of American prisoners is, indeed, part of the German war policy, for intimidating purposes or any other, the fact will and ought to strongly affect America's attitude toward Germany at the peace table.

We have amongst us Americans who struggle to preserve sympathy for the German people as distinguished from their government, Americans who believe that the people of Germany are merely misguided by education and misled by their war lords, Americans who have a sort of hazy idea that civilization is sacrificing, bleeding and dying in this war partly with the aim of ultimate benefit to the people of Germany themselves.

But a people who, through ignorance, brutishness, or subservience as a follower of autocracy, or from any other cause, stands for a government that butchers helpless captives as hogs are slaughtered is without the pale of human sympathy.

Such a people is maniacal, and is to be treated as such by every nation that sits at the peace table to establish order and justice throughout the world. A people that believes in and supports deliberate murder as a war policy must be put beyond the possibility of making war. Moreover, being mad, it should be isolated, confined and controlled as

are individual maniacs, for the common good of all other peoples.

We mean just exactly that, as a nation participating on an equality with other nations in the world's affairs, the nation of throat-cutters should be barred, until completely cured of its barbarism. Germany should be interned in Germany.

# The President's War Cry.

"Force," says the President, "force to the utmost; force without stint or limit; the righteous and triumphant force which shall make right the law of the world and cast every selfish dominion down in the dust."

These words set forth the realization that we're in the war for all we've got, with all we've got. To be sure, the President stated that he is ready to discuss a just and honest peace, but none of the other fighting nations is and, beside, the President is evidently convinced that the samples of peace given by Germany to Russia, Rumania and Ukraina prove that the German government is incapable of fair and honest peace.

The President has in reality delivered a war-cry for his country. The American people must get out of their system any particle of expectation or desire of peace, save the peace that is to be got by fighting for it. To develop and apply our utmost war force, without stint or limit, is our exclusive duty and business.

Every business concern has got to adjust itself to the demands of war business. Every individual, every household has got to make contribution to the national war force its immediate and chief concern.

The sooner these things are done the sooner will the nations be able to pound Germany into peace, and that's the labor that has got to be performed. There is no other way out of it, and our European allies, as well as our own people, are indebted to President Wilson for a war speech that drives all peace hypocrites into their holes, to stay there until the finish, while true patriots sacrifice and fight for freedom's sake.

# The Home.

What is your idea of the ideal home?

Is it a mansion of brick and stone?

A great house filled with servants, Oriental rugs and blue guests?

Is it an apartment where the janitor reigns and the elevator sometimes runs?

Maybe it's a place like this:

"A cottage with a front porch and a perambulator on the porch; a parlor with a phonograph in the parlor; pantry shelves with preserves on the pantry shelves, and a potato patch in the backyard."

That's the sort of homes a visitor at Dearborn, Mich., found, homes scattered around the home of Henry Ford.

Somehow or other we just thought that Henry would want to live among people who had front porches with perambulators, parlors, phonographs, pantry shelves loaded and potato patches growing.

But Dearborn need not get chummy about its collection of ideal homes. There are many right here in Washington, and there are babies for the perambulators too.

# Tonnage, What It Is.

A great deal is being said and written about tonnage, and comparatively few understand what "tonnage" means. Here is a very lucid explanation from the Philadelphia Public Ledger:

Gross tonnage is based on the cubic contents of the hull, with certain arbitrary spaces deducted and has little bearing on the cargo-carrying capacity of the vessel.

Net registered tonnage is gross tonnage, with certain allowances for crew space and machinery space deducted, and has little bearing on the deadweight carrying capacity of the vessel.

Deadweight tonnage is what the vessel actually can carry in tons of heavy cargo, plus stores and bunker coal.

Displacement is the total weight of the vessel when full of cargo—that is, the weight of her hull plus her deadweight tonnage.

In round numbers, a ship of 9,000 tons deadweight would stand about as follows:

Deadweight carrying capacity, 9,000; gross tonnage, 5,000; net registered, 3,000; displacement, 12,000.

# Just America's Way.

The English and French newspapers seem to be rather over-doing their glorification over the decision to put American units in brigades with British and French battalions for immediate fighting. Possibly there isn't full appreciation by Europe of America's spirit in this war.

America is not in this war for glory or profit's sake. America's spirit was demonstrated, clearly and pointedly, by "Black Jack" Pershing, when he did the biggest thing in all his career in offering himself and his men for any purpose, anywhere, whenever needed. America is not in it for America's success but for civilization's triumph and preservation. Along her entire front there is no point at which Germany can hope that jealousy and false pride create a weakness.

If concealed German autocracy never appreciated our seriousness, it ought to now. What we've offered may be only a drop in the bucket, but it's there and it was all that was available. And we're going to fill the bucket!

# A Careless Doll.

The conversation in the lobby of a Washington hotel turned to the subject of dodging responsibility, when this anecdote was fittingly related by Representative Frank D. Scott, of Michigan:

Some time since a fond mother returned from an afternoon call and found her 5-year-old daughter huddled up in a big armchair, crying bitterly. "Why, Bessie," exclaimed the mother, taking the little one in her arms, "what in the world is the matter?"

"Somebody dived in here," sobbed the youngster, nestling closer to her mother.

"That's all right, darling," coaxingly responded the mother. "Tell me all about it."

"It was my doll," was the tearful explanation of Bessie. "She got away from me and broke a dish in the pantry."—Philadelphia Evening Telegraph.

# Digging In.

BY EDMUND VANCE COOKE.

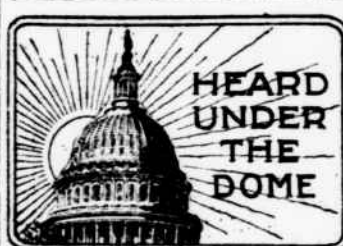
The British stop the German smash! And Haig has halted "Hin." Along the wires there comes the flash; "The foe is digging in!"

The French bite at the German flank; The German line grows thin; Divisions shrivel, rank by rank; The thrust is digging in.

The Yankees leap to meet their chance. How shall we help them win? How back our own in their advance? How, but by digging in!

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# ANOTHER GERMAN CASUALTY



Ever since the organization of the country—if one may call it that—there has been discussion among those who make its laws, as to Sunday observance.

Each session of Congress has seen some form of Sunday observance proposed—and the present session is no exception. As if it is not enough to teach a little Christianity to the Huns across the water, Senator Jones of Washington suggests that it would be wise to compel people to observe the Sabbath in the District. The aim of his proposal is to prevent the transaction of all unnecessary "worldly business" on that day.

The measure does not set out to define "worldly." This is left to the ever ready Nobs. The plain intent, however, is to make folks in the District observe the Sabbath in the District. The aim of his proposal is to prevent the transaction of all unnecessary "worldly business" on that day.

Nearly ninety years ago the question came up in much the same way in the Senate of the nation. The question at stake was the distribution of Sunday mail. In the course of its report, the committee of the Senate took occasion to lay down this more or less fundamental statement which will be read into the record if the Jones bill seriously engages the members of the 1918 session. This reads as follows:

"It is not the legitimate province of the legislature to determine what religion is true, or what false. Our government is a civil and not a religious institution. Our constitution recognizes in every person the right to choose his own religion, and to enjoy it freely, without molestation. Whatever may be the religious sentiments of citizens, and however varied, they are alike entitled to protection from the government, so long as they do not invade the rights of others."

For a man who has been constantly digging at those seeking to install efficiency into our war activities, Dave Lawrence turns a sudden corner when he admits that the airplane program was conceived more in the future tense than in the past tense. In the same article, to make his stand the more surprising, the wily Dave also admits there was a vast amount of "theorizing" with respect to the shipping program, and that certain other phases of our war activities were painted far too gaudily before the gaze of our alert countrymen. We felt all along Dave would see the error of his ways. We are glad he has fulfilled the prediction we made to our fellow workmen.

Senators McKellar, Fletcher and Beckham, who refused to sign either airplane report made by the Senate Committee, occupy neutral ground. They agree in the main with the majority of the committee, but hesitate to bring down upon the heads of the administration the censure which that report administers. They refused to sign the exculpation document because they do not believe it is right to make conditions too glowing for the nation to pursue. Their action is more political than anything else. They hate to condemn a Democratic administration because the fear it will bring odium upon their party—but they will not defend the administration when to do so would only show the absurdity of their defense. They are loyal to the party, but not loyal enough to defend it in such a grave matter.

It is said that Senator-elect Lenroot, of Wisconsin, will not rush to the Senate end of Congress, where a seat is awaiting him, until the leasing bill is passed through the lower body. The Public Lands Committee of the House is meeting in executive session to redraft the lease

ure, and Congressman Lenroot is taking some interest in the proceeding. The action was delayed during his campaign in Wisconsin, but the committee hopes now to catch up with itself and make some haste with this important legislation.

Democrats who flocked so generally to the support of the McLeure resolution are wondering if the administration will persist in applying to all States the same loyalty tests he applied in the Wisconsin campaign. If he does it will bar some of the very influential members of Congress from consideration at the President's hands. It will make the way hard in some districts where these Democrats and no others can be elected—where if these Democrats are removed through the wave of the White House hand, Republicans will be found to step into their shoes. It is a matter of more than grave concern to the party—and to the members, particularly, who are facing again the duty of making another race in their districts. It is said that one of these days an edict or ultimatum of some kind will proceed from the White House and that this will lay down a definite policy with regard to future races. The Democratic members have to think it will be the same kind of a ukase that went forth in the Wisconsin affair.

Direct election of United States Senators, for which some of the more radical politicians were condemned years ago, appears to have worked satisfactorily. Here and there opposition is heard to the scheme, but the cry is a faint-hearted one and general acceptance is now found for a doctrine which once appeared too drastic for the Senate itself to accept. The fact that six-year terms are given to the members of the Upper House leaves them with a chance to act independently and wisely and without fear of the mob manly feistations which sometimes ensue when Congressmen to do things their judgment dictates to them not to do.

The primary system of selecting candidates, a principle which was basic to the Senate election plan in many States, however, seems to have fallen into disrepute in some quarters. With the people it remains quite firm. In spite of the opposition to the plan among politicians there has been no while move made to repeal the law in any State where it has been adopted. The primary plan of nomination gives the people a chance to name their own candidates. It is a task they find not too burdensome to enjoy, and not too heavy for them to assimilate readily along with their other political duties. The primary has come to stay, we would say from our experiences with it, and from our more or less intimate knowledge of the people who use it.

THE OBSERVER.

# Old-Time Newspaper Man Dies.

Frederick N. Y. George W. Ferris, an editorial writer on the Buffalo Courier, died at his home here, Mr. Ferris was 72 years old. He was reporter and editor on the Courier for fifty-two years.

# OPHELIA'S SLATE.

The Metropolitan's new sensational opera pantomime "Le Coq d'Or" has proved a fairland of art and music. Unless one has seen "Le Coq d'Or," well, one simply cannot help being snubbed at afternoon teas and other oolong orgies of Manhattan.

Poushkin, the famous Byronic poet of Russia, wrote a tragic-comic morality play in the form of an Oriental fairy tale, entitled "The Golden Cock"—in the current French version "Le Coq d'Or." Set to the lilting diverting music of Rimsky-Korsakoff, this story in the guise of a glorified pantomime is the spectacular novelty of New York's grand opera season.

Like all good fairy tales it is adaptable to any place or period—so the lively fancy of Willy Pogany, New York's modern poster impresario, has designed the stage setting and costumes, made it old Russian. He wanted liberty and license—the kind they talk about in Washington square as the "crude, strong, half barbaric splendor of color and form."

The sleekly pomaded clerk who greets you in New York may be working for Uncle Sam or so may the hotel porter or bell boy or taxi driver. Spies flock to hotels so it is here that the shrewd United States Secret Service operatives gather much valuable material. The waiter who waits on one at the Ritz may be a spy hunter or the bus boy at Sherry's may also be a sleuth. At the Plaza and Waldorf trained operatives are constantly about the lobbies looking for the slightest flash of Prussianism.

# Liberty May Day Pageant Is Planned

Elaborate Program Arranged by Playground Superintendent.

Hundreds of playground frequenters of Washington will participate in a Liberty May Day pageant, if plans worked out by the Municipal Playground Superintendent, Mr. J. H. Kelly, chief of the District's playground department, has arranged an elaborate program embracing participation by all pupils of local schools and Sunday Schools. Details of the program will be made public at a later date.

Mrs. Rhodes at present is in Philadelphia attending the National Playground conference, but information regarding the pageant may be secured from the director of the Liberty May Day Pageant in Room 2 of the District Building.

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A LINE O' CHEER EACH DAY O' THE YEAR. By John Kendrick Bangs.

TRUE WEALTH. There is a wealth no creditor may seize. No robber grip within his villain clutch. Beyond the reach of avid enemies, Which e'en the Tax-Assessor may not touch. 'Tis wealth of soul. The riches of the mind. Our heritage from sages gone before. And he who seeks it cannot fail to find. And by its use increaseth much his store. (Copyright, 1914.)



Special Correspondent of The Washington Herald. New York, April 12.—Fred C. Kelly, the magazine writer, has always contended that many of the decorative magazine poems are a mere spasm of words and mean nothing. Serious thinkers read them, become dazed and proclaim them as poetic treasures when the fact is that they do not know what they mean at all. For they are meaningless as that to most folk.

Kelly is a practical joker, an incorrigible literary clown at times. Not long ago he came up from his country home in Chevy Chase, Maryland, to New York to call on magazine editors. He was dining with a group of them when the subject of senseless poems came up. He made a wager that he could write a poem without rhyme or reason that would create a flutter among the high brows. One editor agreed to print the poem. He did.

The poem is still being discussed as one of the greatest poetic contributions since the effusions of Rabindranath Tagore, the lavender pajama poet. Letters came to the editor from all over the country demanding more of the work of Tylek Derf—which is Fred Kelly spelled backward. It was read at literary societies and one critic in Maine declared that it had more soul and more of the inspirational than anything that has ever been printed.

Kelly won his wager. Here is the poem:

Who knows the lit of dark, insensate things,  
That shimmer through the sunken sea of strife?  
When comes the chafed call of fentors in  
The broken pulse of crass, inguinate lull  
Of those that were and are and yet are not?  
And where yawns the grave properant thwart?  
The gay abyss where vim the epic searchers stifle?  
Comes then the reeking croon of tiers  
On tiers, and thrashing yelps of light that laughs  
But knows no more? What then is found  
The lofty unto the azure slope and lowly trend of  
Bright discolored tawn? Sifts the shrill and  
Soundless beams unto to the reeking smiles agone?  
Who knows? Ah, who knows?

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# Army and Navy News

Best Service Column in the City

An interesting decision relative to some of the disputed phases of the national defense act has been recently rendered by the judge advocate general of the army, as follows:

Sections forty-three and fifty of the national defense act contemplated courses of theoretical and practical military training for units of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at educational institutions of at least three hours per week per academic year, section fifty fixing the completion of two years' academic service by a members of the senior division of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps as a condition precedent to the right to be furnished commutation of subsistence during further instruction. Senate joint resolution 109, public thirty-five, Sixty-fourth Congress, first session, required that in the interpretation of said section fifty, men who had received a course of military training substantially equivalent to that prescribed by the regulations be given credit therefor.

The proper interpretation of said section fifty as affected by said public thirty-five is that the requirement of two years' academic service can not be satisfied by the work for one academic year. (Ops. J. A. G. 2503, Nov. 12, 1917.) But it is not required that the military training should all be acquired at the same institution. Consequently, a student in military science where he has received military instruction substantially equivalent to that prescribed by the above-mentioned sections of the national defense act. (Ops. J. A. G. 25417, Nov. 24, 1917.)

In commenting on the Naval Medical Corps, the Army and Navy Register has the following to say: It is contemplated by the surgeon general of the navy to appoint about 1,000 medical reserve officers during the next twelve months, and the communication of the opportunity of being commissioned in the service has been inaugurated by the bureau of medicine and surgery. The officers enter the service as assistant surgeons with the rank of lieutenant in the junior grade, and promotion will be in accordance with the system of advancement with running mates as in the case of officers of the regular medical corps.

The expansion of the navy and the increasing personnel make it necessary to provide for these additional medical officers. No new legislation is necessary under existing statutes which are sufficient to meet this necessity. There will be an examination of candidates for the regular dental corps of the navy beginning on May 4. There are fourteen vacancies to be filled. A school composed of thirty officers of the naval medical reserve corps was opened Wednesday of this week at the Navy Medical School